REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated June 1, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 1, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-27 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 25-27 are rejected by the Examiner and have been cancelled. Claims 1-24 are indicated to be allowed by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamate et al. (2003/0234921). In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 25-27, thereby obviating the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate that claims 1-24 are indicated as being allowable.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rándol W. Read

Registration No. 43,876

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P. 3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500 Houston, TX 77056

Telephone: (713) 623-4844 Facsimile: (713) 623-4846 Attorney for Applicant